85. SULLE ALTERAZIONE DEGLI ELEMENTI NERVOSI NELL'INANIZIONE (Alterations in the Nervous System due to Starvation). Lugaro e Chiozzi (Rivista di Patologia nervosa e mentale, 2, 1897, No. 9).

The authors starved animals for some time and then examined the nervous tissues by the newer methods. They conclude that in starvation the changes, occurring in the nervous tissues, are of slow development, that the loss of chromophilic substance is not marked, and is capable of prompt restitution until late stages of actual death are imminent.

In the animals studied great variations were observed. The posterior cells of the cord, of the spinal ganglia, the cortex and Purkinje cells were those most subject to change, while the large ganglion cells of the anterior horns suffered but slight alteration.

The chromophilic substances were affected in greatest measure, the achromatic substances suffering but little change.

The character of the changes is comparable in many ways to those induced by subacute or chronic poisoning by the metals, and the authors take the position, which appears to us rather fanciful, that the changes found in the nervous system may be induced by auto-toxic agents, which rapidly increase before death. JELLIFFE.

86. ANATOMICAL FINDINGS IN A CASE OF FACIAL PARALYSIS OF TEN DAYS' DURATION IN A GENERAL PARALYTIC, WITH REMARKS ON THE TERMINATION OF THE "AUDITORY" NERVES. A. Meyer (Jour. of Experiment. Med., vol. 2, 1897, p. 607).

The case of a paralytic, who, ten days before death developed a facial (complete) paralysis on the left side, is reported by Meyer, and the results of the autopsy given. Death ensued in a convulsion; post-mortem nineteen hours later. The facial nucleus was fixed in alcohol, 94 per cent. in part; the rest and the middle ear in formalin 10%. Clinically no evidence of ear trouble had been shown, but neither hearing nor taste could be examined owing to the dementia of the patient. A summary of the findings is as follows:

Medulla, right side, normal. Left side—nucleus of facial nerve showed the typical changes of reaction to a peripheral lesion as described by Nissl and others in experiments on animals.

There was no evidence of decussation of elements of the seventh nerve, the cells of the right nucleus being everywhere intact. The terminal nuclei of the eighth, both the dorsal and the ventral, showed well-circumscribed neuroglia-cell infiltration, whereas Deiter's nucleus was almost completely free. The central auditory cells were also slightly affected within the region of infiltration.

The case contradicts any decussation of the roots of the facial nerve, and speaks for a relative independence of the nucleus of Deiter's from the auditory nerve endings (contrary to the views of Bechterew). The facial palsy was caused by the condition within the internal auditory canal, i. e. a peripheral lesion, showing that the cells of one fibre system (the facial) can be involved by affection of another system (the auditory) with which it comes in contact. Two plates illustrate the article. STERNE.

87. SUR LA HISTOLOGIE PATHOLOGIQUE DE LA POLYNÉURITE DANS SES RAPPORTS AVEC LES LÉSIONS DE LA CELLULE NERVEUSE (On the Pathological Histology of Polyneuritis, etc.) S. Soukhanoff (Nouvelles Iconographie de la Salpetriere, 10, 1897, p. 347).

The author presents the clinical history and a complete cytological study of a case of multiple neuritis of probable alcoholic origin.

The methods of Nissl and of Marchi were used in the study of the nervous system. In the anterior horn cells there was marked central chromatolysis; the nucleus occupied an eccentric position. In a few cases the nucleus was centric with some perinuclear chromophilic substance, but about this the chromatolysis was marked.

Following Marinesco's studies, the author shows that the lesions in the greater number of affected cells were similar to those seen after lesions of the peripheral nerves, and therefore secondary and not like those found when the lesion is a primary one, such as is seen in the case of the acute intoxications. The author interprets the lesion as primary in those cells, fewer in number, in which the nucleus remained central with perinuclear chromatolysis. JELLIFFE.

88. SUR L'ABSENCE D'ALTERATION DES CELLULES NERVEUSES DE LA MOELLE ÉPINIÈRE DANS UN CAS DE PARALYSIE ALCOOLIQUE EN VOIE D'AMÉLIORATION (Absence of Alteration of the Nerve Cells of the Spinal Cord in a Case of Alcoholic Paralysis in Process of Amelioration). Dejerine et Thomas (Comptes Rendus Hebdomaires des Séances de la Société de Biologie, 4, May 1st, 1897).

Dejerine and Thomas report a case of alcoholic paralysis of the inferior limbs with muscular atrophy; hyperæsthesia of the skin and muscles; talipes equinus; loss of patellar reflex; lesions of the cutaneous and muscular nerves of the lower limbs, consisting of empty nerve sheaths, and diminution in the number of large medullated fibres, without evidences of Wallerian degeneration. The anterior and posterior roots, the white matter and cells of the cord, appeared to be normal.

The writers think that the absence of the cellular lesions may have been due to the fact that the reaction of the cell body had ceased, the condition of the peripheral nerves being one of amelioration, although the power of motion was still much affected. The findings show, however, that in peripheral neuritis the nerves may be much altered without the presence of appreciable changes in their cell bodies. It is wise to maintain a certain reserve in judging of the importance of chromatolysis in the nerve cells, for, while it occurs after infectious processes or intoxications, it does not seem to have great significance. Goldscheider and Flatau have recently shown experimentally that pronounced cellular alterations may be found in animals which have presented no symptoms during life. These lesions are temporary, and the restoration of the nerve cell to a normal condition is very rapid. According to Goldscheider and Flatau, the corpuscles of Nissl are not of vital importance, and their physiological significance is unknown. Jacottet has noticed an absence of paralytic phenomena in animals intoxicated by different substances in which chromatolysis was found at the autopsy. Chromatolysis is, therefore, of interest cytologically, but is not of physiological importance. SPILLER.

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY.

89. A CASE OF "LANDRY'S" PARALYSIS WITH AUTOPSY. T. Diller and A. Meyer (American Journal of the Medical Sciences, III, p. 104).

This case occurred in a female, fifty-three years of age, who was suddenly taken ill with paralysis of the legs, which was followed after three days by weakness of the arms, the bladder and intestinal canal. Three months later the patient died with bulbar symptoms, a gradual paralysis of the extremities having developed in the meanwhile. The patellar reflex was lost, but the sensations remained normal. Death was due to respiratory paralysis.

The microscopical investigation showed a slight sclerosis in the